

ABSTRACT

A system and method for authenticating documents and content thereof. A counterfeit resistant document recording medium is provided, having thereon a predefined unique document identifier and at least one security feature. The recording medium is thereafter imprinted with document content, which typically varies between documents. The document content is stored in a database, indexed by an associated document identifier. The document may then be authenticated by checking the security feature and comparing the stored document content with a perceived document content. The system provides a number of opportunities for commercial exploitation, including sales of identified recording media, recording of information in a database, on-line authentication transactions, differential accounting for document validations and counterfeit identifications, imprinting devices, ^{AND} authentication devices, ~~and the like~~. The system prevents counterfeiting of valuable documents through casual ^{UNIT} means by providing both physical and logical security.